

do such work is compulsory, and not, as is the case now, left largely to the discretion of local authorities.

#### HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss J. G. Gilchrist, Miss H. J. Pryer, Miss J. E. Taylor, Miss D. Vine, Miss J. B. Smith, and Miss G. Macgregor.

Miss Gilchrist's admirable paper exceeds the regulation length of 750 words, and so is disqualified for the prize.

#### QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Describe the most modern methods of treating hip disease.

### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN AGAIN SUPPORTS STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, in session this week at the Central Hall, Westminster, under the presidency of Mrs. Creighton, is of special interest to trained nurses, as two of the three resolutions considered at the meeting of the Council on the afternoon of Tuesday, October 5th, dealt with nursing subjects of great importance.

Of the other resolutions adopted, concerning the desirability of promoting the appointment of suitable women to carry on police duties, regarding the payment of women employed to take the place of men on account of war, and the desirability of establishing Day Trade Schools for girls, it is only possible in our limited space to emphasise the uniformly high level of excellence of the speeches on these subjects.

#### A POOR LAW NURSING SERVICE.

In the absence of Miss A. C. Gibson, Miss E. S. Haldane, LL.D., proposed a resolution urging the Local Government Board "to take steps, so soon as the national crisis permits, to establish a Nursing Service, under the control of the Department; by which means not only would the supply of nurses be efficiently regulated, but a status given to Poor Law Nursing," further, that "as a preliminary measure, an Advisory Committee of experts be appointed by the Local Government Board to formulate a scheme."

In moving the resolution, Miss Haldane referred to the new Order recently enforced in England by the Local Government Board, but said that it did not go nearly far enough,

or grapple with the question of a Nursing Service or the evil of pauper nursing. Terrible results followed the latter, even when the paupers were supervised by paid officials. This was not sufficient: they should be supervised by trained nurses, by which she meant nurses with not less than three years' training in a general hospital. There was excellent material for training in the great Poor Law Infirmaries, and the nurses were splendidly trained, but they went off after certification to all sorts of other work. A certain number of these nurses should be retained in a National Poor Law Nursing Service. For this, organization from the top was necessary. Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service was organized when Lord Midleton was Secretary of State for War, with a Matron-in-Chief at its head. In the present war thousands of nurses were doing splendid work in connection with this Service.

It was thought by some that the time was inopportune to inaugurate a new Service under the Local Government Board. She did not share that view. The matter was primarily one of organization, not of expense, and the Service was urgently needed. She proposed that the Council should call upon the Local Government Board to form an expert committee to consider the question, on which women should be represented. It was a real grievance that the former committee consisted solely of men.

Miss Amy Hughes seconded the resolution, and endorsed what Miss Haldane had said as to the excellence of Poor Law training. She knew of the need of expert nursing in the small workhouse infirmaries.

Miss Buchanan hoped that Ireland would be included in the scope of the resolution, which was then carried unanimously.

#### STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The next resolution was proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, on behalf of the Legislation Sectional Committee, as follows:—

That the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland re-affirm its resolution of 14th October, 1908, "that it is desirable, both in the interests of the professional status of Trained Nurses and of the public who use their services, that provision should be made for their Registration by the State; such registration to be under the supervision of a Central Board upon which Nurses shall have direct and adequate representation."

Further, that in view of the majority in favour of the Nurses' Registration Bill on its first reading in 1914, the Prime Minister be respectfully urged to grant facilities for a similar Bill next year.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)